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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA

Control of Grain-Eating Birds
(Supplementary Assistance) (ETH/77/022)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	October 1979
Starting date of project activities:	July 1978 (including previous assistance)
Planned completion date:	December 1980
To be executed by:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Plant Protection and Regulation Department (Ministry of Agriculture and Settlement)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$370 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. Sorghum, maize and millet are basic to the lives of the people living at the intermediate and lower elevations (below 2,000 metres) of Ethiopia. It is in these areas of semi-arid grasslands that grain-eating birds (Ploceidae) are most numerous. The effect of bird depredation, particularly by the quelea quelea, is often magnified by its being concentrated and therefore locally severe. In some areas it is a deterrent to any increase in cereal production within either the traditional sector or that of modern agriculture. Degredation is most acute with regard to sorghum and millet, which account for 20 per cent of total cereal production in Ethiopia.

2. Ethiopia initiated bird-control measures only recently, under the UNDP/FAO regional project, Research into the Control of the Grain-Eating Birds (RAF/73/055).1/ The present project, which began in June 1978, is an expansion of these activities. It seeks to assist the Government in developing a programme for significantly reducing crop losses by grain-eating birds. The present supplementary assistance

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

1/ DP/SF/R.4/Add.24, DP/PROJECTS/55 and 821.

is designed to enable the project to better meet its objectives. It will extend the services of the ornithologist through 1981, add the post of survey ornithologist for two years, provide post-graduate training for two fellows in avian zoology and pesticide use, group training for four technicians and funds for two vehicles.

II. Objectives and activities

3. The long-term objective of the project remains to assist the Plant Protection and Regulatory Department (PPRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Settlement in developing a programme for the significant reduction in cereal crop losses by such grain-eating birds as the quelea quelea.

4. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) strengthen the bird-control services of the PPRD; (b) define the extent of the problem and the scope of control activities; and (c) advise on the control of grain-eating birds. The immediate objectives of the supplementary assistance are to provide for: (a) two overseas fellowships, including one of two years of post-graduate training leading to a masters degree in avian zoology, and one technical non-degree training in pesticides use; (b) group training for four technicians in bird control techniques; and (c) an additional expert in survey ornithology for a period of two years. Two four-wheel drive land rover vehicles will also be provided.

III. Inputs

5. Under the assistance now approved UNDP will continue to provide, through the Executing Agency, for the services of one ornithologist ecologist and one United Nations Volunteer; two fellowships as stated above and some study tours; a sub-contract for an aerial survey of breeding areas; and the necessary vehicles, field and laboratory equipment.

6. To carry out the activities for which assistance is now approved, the Government of Ethiopia will provide national professional and support personnel, office and related premises, and for administrative costs.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total approved
	$	$	$
Personnel	92 700	216 300	309 000
Subcontract	13 000	52 500	65 500
Training	9 900	45 300	55 200
Equipment	31 100	40 000	71 100
Miscellaneous	11 700	15 900	27 600
	158 400	370 000	528 400

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $84,500 in kind.

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